

Message Text

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SP-02 SS-15 /094 W
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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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PASS USICA

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TAGS: PEPR EG US IS XF
SUBJ: PRESS COMMENTARY CENTERS ON U.S. SPECULATIONS ABOUT
PROSPECTS FOR CAMP DAVID

SUMMARY: EGYPTIAN PRESS REPORTAGE AND COMMENTARY ON PRE-SUMMIT ACTIVITIES CONTINUES TO BE HEAVY. KISSINGER IS QUOTED AS SAYING PRESIDENT MUST BELIEVE PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS ARE GOOD OR HE NEVER WOULD HAVE PROPOSED MEETING, WHILE VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE IS SAID TO HAVE ADVISED PRESIDENT THAT TIME WAS NOT YET RIPE FOR SUMMIT. END
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SUMMARY.

1. ALL MAJOR PAPERS AUGUST 26 CARRY FRONT PAGE STORIES ON ACTIVITIES LEADING UP TO CAMP DAVID, AND MOST ALSO RUN EDITORIAL COMMENTS. CONSIDERABLE SPACE IS DEVOTED TO SPECULATION BY AMERICAN LEADERS AND PRESS REGARDING PROSPECTS FOR SUMMIT'S SUCCESS. GUMHURIYYA CARRIES REPORT

OF KISSINGER'S AUGUST 24 SPEECH IN ALBUQUERQUE UNDER HEADLINE, "KISSINGER SAYS CARTER IS SURE OF SUCCESS OF CAMP DAVID." AKHBAR EL YOM RUNS SEVERAL OPTIMISTIC STORIES UNDER SUCH HEADLINES AS "CAMP DAVID SUMMIT OPENS DOORS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST." MEANWHILE, AHRAH CITES WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS AS SAYING THAT PRESIDENT CARTER PROPOSED SUMMIT DESPITE VIEWS OF SOME OF HIS AIDES, INCLUDING VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE, THAT TIME WAS NOT YET OPPORTUNE, AND THAT MEETING SHOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL FOUNDATION FOR POSITIVE RESULTS HAD BEEN BETTER PREPARED.

2. AHRAH'S MAIN EDITORIAL SAYS THERE IS NO DISAGREEMENT THAT CAMP DAVID REPRESENTS "THE LAST TRUMP" IN AMERICA'S HAND IN ITS EFFORT TO BRING PEACE TO THE MIDDLE EAST. THE U.S. IS ASKED TO SHOULDER ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AS A FULL PARTNER IN THE SEARCH FOR A SETTLEMENT, AND TO STAND FIRM IN ITS COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES OF RESOLUTION 242. BOTH AHRAH AND DOSTOUR EXHORT OTHER ARAB GOVERNMENTS TO STAND BEHIND EGYPT SO AS TO STRENGTHEN THE ARAB NEGOTIATING POSITION. CITING PRINCE FAHD'S STATEMENT THAT FAILURE AT CAMP DAVID WOULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES, DOSTOUR SAYS THIS CONSTITUTES A WARNING THAT ARAB OIL AND FINANCIAL POTENTIAL IS AT THE SERVICE OF THE ARAB CAUSE.

3. AS FOR PRE-SUMMIT ACTIVITIES, PAPERS REPORT THAT AMB GHORBAL MET WITH ATHERTON AND QUANDT TO DISCUSS UNCLASSIFIED

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PREPARATIONS FOR SUMMIT, AND LATER HAD TALKS WITH RANKING CONGRESSMEN, INCLUDING SENATORS KENNEDY AND CHURCH. PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT AMB EILTS WILL MEET TODAY WITH PRESIDENT SADAT, AND IS EXPECTED TO FLY HOME OVER THE WEEKEND TO PARTICIPATE IN SUMMIT PREPARATIONS.

4. SADAT WILL MEET THIS EVENING WITH NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S "INFORMATION COMMITTEE" TO OUTLINE HIS NEW PARTY'S TASKS. ACCORDING TO PRESS, HE WILL DISCUSS "THE CHALLENGES THE COUNTRY FACES ON THE HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS SCENES."

5. ACCORDING TO PRESS, FORMAL DECISION HAS NOW BEEN MADE TO CONVENE 70TH SESSION OF ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL IN CAIRO SEPTEMBER 12. LEAGUE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL NOFAL IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT SECRETARY GENERAL RIAD HAS TELEGRAPHED ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS THAT THIS DECISION WAS TAKEN OWING TO THE "LACK OF A QUORUM" IN FAVOR OF MEETING OUTSIDE LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS. (ARAB LEAGUE ASST SYG MUHAMMED RIAD HAD CONFIRMED THIS TO US TWO EVENINGS AGO.) EILTS

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